



October 25, 2023

To: Students of Color Conference Executive Leadership

From: SBCTC Education Division and SBCTC Equity Diversity & Inclusion Department

CC: SBCTC Business Office

Re: Response to Students of Color Conference (SOCC) leaders request for 2024 funds

SOCC Co-Chairs & MSSDC Executive Leadership,

We have heard and understand the concerns expressed by the MSSDC and SOCC executive leadership regarding the sustainability of the Students of Color Conference. The lasting impact and legacy of this event on the community college sector and higher education as a whole is undeniable. Many of our colleagues within MSSDC, SBCTC, and the higher education sector have been directly impacted by this conference and remain committed to ensuring its availability for future students of color.

While it's true that the 2023 conference had to be canceled due to challenges related to the capacity of the council and the planning committee, it's essential to acknowledge the consistent sharing of concerns regarding the conference's sustainability over the past several years. These concerns were voiced by leaders across the council and committee, recognizing that the time and resources required for planning and execution had become increasingly challenging for limited staff.

We understand that the current conference planning committee has embraced a transition to a new era for the conference, shifting towards a campus-based model. This adjustment aims to reduce costs, shine a spotlight on the host campus, and provide a more manageable scale for the conference's return to in-person format.

The SBCTC, including the Student Services, Student Success Center, Education Division, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Department, has conducted a thorough evaluation of the proposal and funding request for the Students of Color Conference. Following careful deliberation and collaboration, we have determined that additional funding can be allocated to support the 2024 Student of Color Conference.

In response to the proposal for additional funding, the SBCTC has approved a one-time allocation of \$40,000 for the 2024 Students of Color Conference. This includes one-time funds in the amount of \$20,000 from the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Department, an additional one-time fund of \$20,000 from the Student Success Center, and the annual Student Services contribution of \$10,000, totaling \$50,000 for 2024. These funds will cover various conference needs such as keynote speakers, technology, workshop presenters, printing, and more. Additionally, the SBCTC Student Success Center Department has offered to provide ongoing staff support to assist with conference registration, contracts, and other administrative requirements leading up to the event.

Recognizing that this upcoming conference is the first to resume in person since the COVID-19 pandemic, its success holds paramount importance for our students and colleges.

In the near future, we ask for the SOCC Planning Committee and MSSDC Executive Leadership Team to connect and discuss the next steps with SBCTC in advancing conference planning for this year. As the conference date approaches rapidly, it is crucial that our efforts are closely aligned.

We look forward to working together to ensure the success and sustainability of the 2024 Students of Color Conference.



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